



# Gunfighters take civic leaders on tour

STORY AND PHOTO  
BY CAPT. KELLY CAHALAN  
GUNFIGHTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

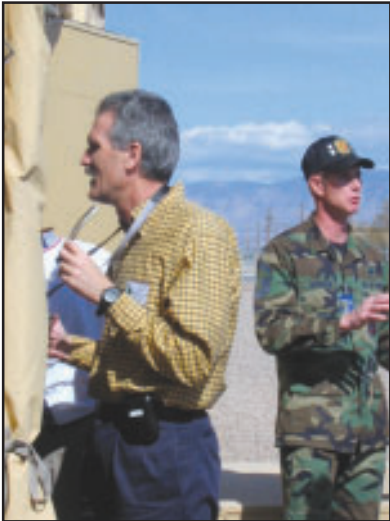
Twenty-four mayors, city council and chamber presidents, county commissioners and business leaders from around southern Idaho got a close-up look of the 366th Fighter Wing and the U.S. Air Force missions last week during a two-day community relations tour. After an orientation of the Gunfighters, the group flew to

Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., and Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., on a KC-135 from the Air Force Reserve's 939th Air Refueling Wing in Portland, Ore. During the first leg of the flight, the group watched six F-15Cs from the 391st Fighter Squadron refuel in flight. "Watching the professional and precision flying [during the aerial refueling] was a thrill," said Charles Correll, Jerome, Idaho, mayor. Col. Charles Shugg, 366th FW commander, escorted the group

to the ACC bases to see the big picture of Mountain Home's combat role and how Gunfighters fit into that picture. More importantly, the tour program gives community leaders not typically associated with the military a chance to see how the Air Force operates on a daily basis. According to Dennis Johnson, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce chairman, the trip was a valuable learning experience. "It's such a refreshing thing to

see the real U.S. armed services and to understand its mission to protect freedom for all of us Americans and many others as well," he said. "The confluence of dedicated people and state of the art equipment in the U.S. military and, in this case, Air Force gives me the reassurance that liberty and freedom are being defended by the very best." One of the tour stops at Holloman was the unique 49th Material Maintenance Group,

which manages the Air Force's only Basic Expeditionary Airfield Resource, or BEAR base. The unit is capable of setting up BEAR base sets that include tents, kitchens, dining facilities, shower and latrine facilities, power generators and reverse osmosis water purification systems. In addition to learning about the 49th Fighter Wing mission, the group visited the German Air



GREG LARAGAN, IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, LOOKS AT A STATIC DISPLAY AT HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. DURING THE TOUR.

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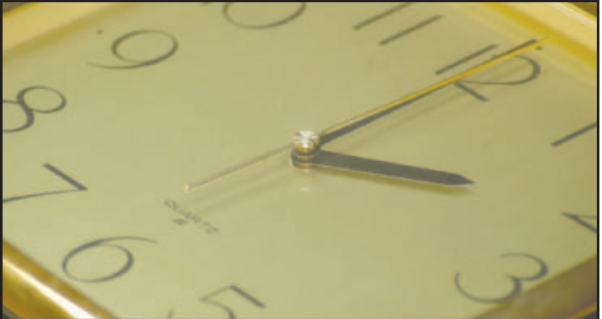
## Recent law requires addition to USAF emergency data card

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER NEWS SERVICE

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – Airmen at places like Mountain Home Air Force Base must designate one immediate family member as the person authorized to direct disposition of their remains should they become a casualty. The PADD designation becomes a part of the member's Record of Emergency Data as required by law. Most Airmen will add their PADD information to their virtual Record of Emergency Data by following the instructions in the Virtual MPF. Those at deployed locations need to contact their personnel support for contingency operations team to update their record. Organizations using the DD Form 93 or Air Force Academy Form 0-143 to record emergency data must ensure Airmen are briefed on this new requirement and designate their PADD in the remarks section. PADD information should include the designated person's name, relationship to member, address with zip code and telephone number. The PADD is responsible for the disposition of remains only. The member is still required to designate separately the recipient of other benefits and entitlements. Airmen, identified by the last digit in their Social Security Number, must update their records by the following dates:

- 1 – March 28 to April 3
- 2 – April 4 to 10
- 3 – April 11 to 14
- 4 – April 15 to 19
- 5 – April 20 to 24
- 6 – April 25 to 28
- 7 – April 29 to May 3
- 8 – May 4 to 9
- 9 – May 10 to 15
- 0 – May 16 to 22

For more information, call call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.



Daylight Saving time begins this Sunday at 2 a.m.

Remember to set clocks forward one hour.

GRAPHIC BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN STIVES



FILE PHOTOS

MEMBERS OF THE 389TH FIGHTER SQUADRON THUNDERBOLTS PREPARE FOR A TRAINING MISSION. THE 389 FS PILOTS CAN TRAIN OVER MOUNTAIN HOME AND SOUTHERN IDAHO OR TRAVEL TO THE UTAH TRAINING RANGE, JUST OUTSIDE SALT LAKE CITY. PILOTS CONTINUALLY UPTRAIN ON AERIAL REFUELING AND COMBAT MANUEVERS.

BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRIAN STIVES  
GUNFIGHTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 389th Fighter Squadron's rich history dates back to May 24, 1943. It activated June 1, 1943, at Richmond Army Air Base, Va., as part of the 366th Fighter Group. In the beginning, the 389th FS was assigned P-47 Thunderbolts. In January 1944, the squadron deployed to England and began flying combat missions. Its aircraft and crews participated in the invasion of Europe, operating from forward bases in France, Belgium and Germany. They were primarily flown in ground attacks missions, employing bombs, rockets and strafing. The squad-

ron inactivated in August 1946. The squadron reactivated in 1953 as the 389th Fighter-Bomber Squadron as part of the new 366th Fighter-Bomber Wing, located in Alexandria Air Force Base, La. During this period, they deployed to Turkey in conjunction with the 1958 Lebanon Crisis. The squadron deactivated once again in 1959 and reactivated in 1962 as the 389th Tactical Fighting Squadron, this time at Chaumont Air Base, France. In October 1971, the 389th TFS colors transferred to their current home at Mountain Home, where they flew the new F-111F Aardvark and became part of the 347th Tactical Fighting Wing. The squadron once again deactivated in 1991, when the F-111A retired. In March 1992, the squadron reactivated as the

389th Fighter Squadron and assigned Block 25 F-16Cs. In January 1994, the squadron converted to the latest F-16C, the Block 52, and later that year received the AGM-88 High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile and HARM Targeting System pod. With HARM/HTS, the squadron picked up the mission of enemy air defenses suppression, once performed primarily by the F-4G Wild Weasel aircraft. The squadron is truly a multi-role unit, according to its leaders. "We help destroy enemy air defenses and aid in defense of air-to-air and air-to-ground combat," said Maj. John Walker, 389th Fighter Squadron assistant operations director.

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**Gunfighter says look for motorcyclist not motorcycle**  
"I didn't see the motorcycle."  
This is possibly the most common phrase uttered to a police officer after an accident between a car and a motorcycle. A recent motorcycle study done in Europe concluded 70 percent of accidents involving a car and motorcycle were caused by the other driver failing to see the motorcycle.

Therein lies the problem. They didn't see the motorcycle because they weren't looking for the motorcyclist, you know the guy or gal that sits on top of the motorcycle. I can hear it already: "This guy has lost his mind, telling me to

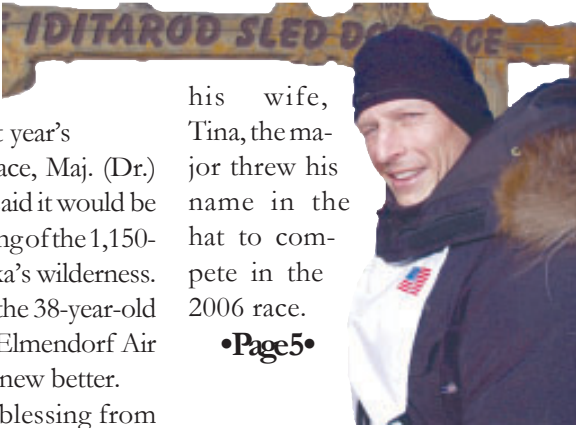


look for the motorcyclist not the motorcycle."  
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**366th MDG begins sending no-show letters**  
Starting in the near future, the 366th Medical Group will start sending appointment no-show letters to first sergeants of active duty members who miss their medical appointments.

"You may have seen these letters before when one of your buddies missed a mandatory Physical Health Assessment appointment," said Capt. Jennifer Hillberg, 366th MDG group practice manager. "The no-show letters will have the date and time of the missed appointment as well as your name ..."  
• **Page 3 •**

**Airman competes in Iditarod**  
After finishing last year's Iditarod Sled Dog Race, Maj. (Dr.) Thomas Knolmayer said it would be his one and only running of the 1,150-mile race across Alaska's wilderness. But those who know the 38-year-old surgeon stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, knew better. After getting the blessing from

his wife, Tina, the major threw his name in the hat to compete in the 2006 race.  
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# Tackle tomorrow with today's energy, dedication

By Lt. Col. Phillip Hoover  
389TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

I've been told there is an old Chinese blessing that goes something like this: "May you live in interesting times." "Interesting" is probably an understatement for what anyone in the Air Force is experiencing right now.

We're facing increased deployments, manning cuts ... you know the mantra. It can be hard to stay motivated from day-to-day. Worse than frustrating, it can make you want to quit. Why put up with this when I can go live the American dream – nice house, car, family with two and a half children, a pet and the ability to enjoy my new surround system starting promptly at 6 o'clock every night?

There were many days I've wanted to quit as a commander. You probably feel the same way. So why don't you? Why haven't I? Honestly, it boils down to commitment and a sense of accomplishment.

The commitment piece is one of our core values - service before self. There are few people left in the Air Force that don't understand or live service before self. What I struggle with is the sense of accomplishment. Can you identify the feeling of misery as you crawl into bed saying, "I worked my tail off today, it wasn't fun, all I did was react to the latest short notice task, and tomorrow will

probably be the same."

I find myself falling into that trap quite often. The problem? That is a near-sighted view of life and accomplishment. I need to look to the future to draw motivation. I'll illustrate this point with a couple of stories. None of these ideas are original to me; I'm not that smart. But some smart people have felt the same and are good at addressing these feelings.

I read Gen. Colin Powell's book several years ago and recently reread parts of it. One of the parts I wanted to reread was his famous list of "rules for success." There are 13, but two jump out at me. His number one rule is, "It ain't as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning." His final rule is, "Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier."

If this philosophy works for a top advisor to three presidents and secretary of state to a fourth, then it might be worth my time trying. His other 11 rules are good too, but I'm going to hold those in reserve in case I have to write another article.

I'm going to jump now from General Powell to my good friend Bob "Homey" Young, a U.S. Marine and a great American. He expressed the same thoughts a little differently. After I replaced a few choice words, Homey's philosophy is, "Never make life or career decisions when you're sailing on the big, gray nightmare." Bottom line: Don't make a rash decision to

bail out of the military just because you had a tough day.

How many tough days have to add up before I can quit? This is a tougher question for me to answer. To me, it comes down to trying to visualize what history will say about what we're accomplishing right now. Typical for me, I've got a few stories.

The first one I heard from Chaplain (Capt.) Jeff Taylor during a sermon several months ago. While he used this story to achieve a slightly different point, I think it works great here.

Chaplain Taylor told a story from Robert Fulgram (author of "Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten") This story (from a different book) opens with a hilarious description of a young father trying to console his screaming 2-year-old son in a supermarket after the son hurt himself by pulling down and breaking an entire display of pickles. Moving the story forward a few minutes later, the son is now asleep in the car, and you learn this father has a small but very real desire in his heart to quit - run away, enjoy life and escape these trials. But that's not what fathers do.

The story's next several scenes relate to both the son's fury against an unjust father and a father's anger and despair when he's told by a teenage son that he's a failure as a dad. The story's final scene takes place with the son living down the street from his father and with children of his

own. The author describes how he sees father and son jogging together several times a week. The son instinctively reaches out to steady and shield his father from oncoming traffic. He often overhears them telling one of their favorite stories, it starts – "One day in the pickle isle of the supermarket ..." I can't do the story justice with a few lines. But I heard similar stories from friends and coworkers about the opening days of Desert Storm.

As we deployed squadrons to start Operation Desert Shield, there was no such thing as an Air Expeditionary Force. We just didn't do things like that. Our war was supposed to be in Europe against the Soviet Union. We were supposed to deploy into existing bases. The Air Force ordered the 77th Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base to Saudi Arabia the day after Kuwait was invaded.

They were thrown into a bad situation. The F-16 engine manufacturer couldn't guarantee the engines would work long enough to get them to Saudi in a single hop. They landed on a runway in the middle of the desert with no base around it. They shut their F-16s down themselves and used their life support gear to chalk tires and spent the first night in their aircraft intake with no food or water.

The next day, personnel started arriving, and a base started taking shape. Over time, MREs arrived. Cots, hot meals and

showers followed. The first several days weren't fun or exciting. If the Iraqis continued south, they couldn't stop them. Conditions were terrible, and support was nonexistent.

Bottom line ... it sucked.

Yet, whenever those warriors see each other, one of the first things they talk about is, "Hey do you remember when we showed up in Saudi and ..." They eventually talk about other things but only after they relash those terrible days.

Why is that? They've gained the benefit of perspective and realize the significance of what they achieved. The Iraqi army was defeated, Kuwait's freedom restored and they returned safely. They now have a sense of accomplishment that was impossible to feel in those early days.

Every so often, we need to step back and imagine ourselves a few years from now. We'll have stories born of hardship but validated by success. We are doing monumental things in Iraq. We are transforming our Air Force as significantly as any point since man began flying. We are destroying terrorist capability and keeping America's citizens safe and proud. You are making this happen.

Things will look better in the morning. I'm already proud of things historians are writing about and what we are accomplishing. Draw strength from this and tackle tomorrow with the same energy and dedication you used today.

## COMMANDER'S HOTLINE



**COL. CHARLES SHUGG**

This hotline is your direct line to me.

It's your opportunity to make Mountain Home Air Force Base a better place to live and work. I review every response to hotline questions, but functional experts prepare most responses.

If possible, you should first contact the organization responsible for the problem or function. Your first sergeants, commanders and agency chiefs want to help, so please let them try.

If you do not know how to proceed or if you have already tried your chain of command, then do not hesitate to contact the Hotline at 828- 6262 or e-mail Commanders-Hotline @mountainhome.af.mil.

Not all Hotlines are published, but if you leave your name and phone number or e-mail address, I will make sure you get a reply.

**COL. CHARLES SHUGG**  
366TH FIGHTER WING  
COMMANDER

| 2005 AWARDS            |    |
|------------------------|----|
| <i>As of this week</i> |    |
| Air Force .....        | 13 |
| ACC .....              | 53 |
| 12th Air Force .....   | 10 |

| LAST DUI   |  |
|--|--|
| 366th Comptrollers Squadron                              |  |
| Days without a DUI:                                      |  |
| 13   |  |
| AADD made 70 saves in February, and 203 so far this year |  |
| <i>(Courtesy of AADD)</i>                                |  |



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**Coverage:** Coverage of upcoming events should be arranged in advance by calling the public affairs office at 828-6800 or by sending an electronic message to pa.news@mountainhome.af.mil.

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**Senior Airman Brian Stives**  
*Editor, The Gunfighter*

# Stop looking for the motorcycle, start looking for rider

By Tech. Sgt. Larry Shepard  
366TH SERVICES SQUADRON

"I didn't see the motorcycle."

This is possibly the most common phrase uttered to a police officer after an accident between a car and a motorcycle. A recent motorcycle study done in Europe concluded 70 percent of accidents involving a car and motorcycle were caused by the other driver failing to see the motorcycle.

Therein lies the problem. They didn't see the motorcycle because they weren't looking for the motorcyclist, you know the guy or gal that sits on top of the motorcycle. I can hear it already: "This guy has lost his mind, telling me to look for the motorcyclist not the motorcycle."

Take a ride with me here.

We do everything we can in the Air Force to make sure our riders are trained and wearing the proper gear. We get briefings from our squadron motorcycle mentors, unit commanders and base safety representatives. We attend classes on safe riding and wear bright colors that are reflective at night, but people still fail to see us.

There are many theories about why vehicle operators don't see motorcycles; they're small, the motorcyclists fail to wear the right colors to be seen or people are not trained to really look for motorcycles. Regardless of why they don't see a motorcycle, we need to shift our paradigm to see the person on the motorcycle.

Perhaps people don't know any motorcyclists or have a personal connection

to a motorcyclist. If drivers start thinking about the motorcyclist as an individual, it may make it easier for them to spot the motorcyclist and hence the motorcycle. Straddled on that bike is someone's son, daughter, father, grandmother, etc. My mother told me one day she never realized how many motorcycles were on the road until I started riding. She had no reason to see them before; now she does. Her motherly instincts took over and placed me on every motorcycle she saw, being sure to give them plenty of room and the respect they deserve on the road. She made a personal connection with each motorcyclist she sees.

Here's what I ask of you. Think of at least one person in your life that rides a motorcycle – a distant relative, co-worker, whomever. If you can't think of anyone

you know, start a conversation with the next motorcycle rider you come across. We typically are a friendly bunch and love to talk about our bikes.

Start picturing them on every motorcycle you see. Give the motorcyclist coming at you the same amount of room you'd give the person you know. Make the personal connection with the rider.

If everyone would start looking for the motorcyclists, I'm sure we could cut into that 70 percent statistic. Mountain Home is very fortunate that we have not had any serious accidents in the past several years.

As the season changes and the weather warms up, you will see more of us out on the street. Give us a little room, make that personal connection and don't be afraid to give a little wave of the hand. We'll try to wave back.

# Celebrate women's historic achievements throughout history

By Capt. Karin Peeling  
GUNFIGHTER LEGAL OFFICE

With the start of the women's liberation movement in the 1960s, interest in women's history flourished. The women's movement focused attention on the perceived invisibility of women in traditional American history textbooks.

Increased interest in women's history eventually led to the inclusion of women in history classrooms as well as the development of a distinct field of women's studies. In contrast to the years prior to the 1970s, textbooks now chronicle women's historical contributions. Moreover, almost every college and university in America now offers women's history courses and degree programs.

Interest in women's history has also spread beyond the classroom. In 1978, the first official public recognition of women's history in the United States began in Sonoma County, Calif., with a weeklong celebration. The enthusiastic response to this event encouraged sup-

porters to lobby Congress for the declaration of a national women's history week. In 1981, Utah Sen. Orin Hatch and Maryland Rep. Barbara Mikulski co-sponsored a joint Congressional resolution, which declared a national Women's History Week. Six years later, Congress expanded the celebration, proclaiming March to be Women's History Month in the United States.

The purpose of Women's History Month is not to idealize women but to increase awareness of the contributions of women throughout history and inspire leaders of tomorrow.

Take a moment to test your knowledge of women's history by taking the short quiz below.

- After graduating from Stanford University, this woman joined NASA in 1968. In 1963, she became the first American woman in space. This famous astronaut is
  - Mae Jemison
  - Sally Ride
  - Eileen Collins
  - Carley Fiorina
- She was the first African

American woman elected to Congress in 1968. She later made an unsuccessful bid for the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination before being nominated as the U.S. ambassador to Jamaica. Who is she?

- Barbara Jordan
- Shirley Chisholm
- Eleanor Holmes Norton
- Carol Mosley Braun

- Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught is one of the most highly decorated women in U.S. military history. In what year was a law passed to allow women to be promoted to generals and admirals?
- 1865
- 1920
- 1945
- 1967
- Women generally earn less money than men for performing the same job duties. According to a study conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, for every dollar a man made in 2003, women made 75.5 cents. What percentage of women in the United States make over \$30,000 a year?
- 20 percent
- 49 percent

- 60 percent
- 74 percent

- Tania Leon is an internationally acclaimed composer and conductor. What percentage of acclaimed musical conductors in the United States are women?
- 1 percent
- 3 percent
- 9 percent
- 35 percent
- This choreographer's name has become synonymous with the modern dance movement in America. Her career spanned four decades and earned her the Medal of Freedom and the French Legion of Honor. This dancer is
- Dorothy Dandridge
- Martha Graham
- Ginger Rodgers
- Jennifer Beals
- This woman was the first female pilot to make a solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932. She later disappeared while attempting to fly around the world. Who is this famous female aviator?
- Amelia Earhart
- Anne Morrow Lindbergh

- Beryl Markham
- Bessie Coleman

- This pioneer in the women's liberation movement helped found the National Organization of Women and served as the organization's president until 1970? Who is this pioneering feminist?
- Bella Abzug
- Kate Millet
- Susan Sontag
- Betty Friedan
- Which Constitutional Amendment granted women the right to vote?
- The Fourteenth Amendment
- The Fifteenth Amendment
- The Nineteenth Amendment
- The Twenty-first Amendment
- This amendment was ratified in
- 1899
- 1904
- 1920
- 1928Answers:
- B 2. B 3. D 4. B 5.C 6. B 7. A 8. D 9. C 10. C

# 366th MDG begins no-show letter policy

**366TH MEDICAL GROUP**

Starting in the near future, the 366th Medical Group will start sending appointment no-show letters to first sergeants of active duty members who miss their medical appointments.

“You may have seen these letters before when one of your buddies missed a mandatory Physical Health Assessment appointment,” said Capt. Jennifer Hillberg, 366th MDG group practice manager. “The no-show letters will have the date and time of the missed appointment as well as your name and last four numbers of your social security number.”

Although military healthcare may be

“free” and theoretically “unlimited,” every appointment costs the government money, and access to see a provider can be quite limited, said Captain Hillberg.

“Our providers have the same military training requirements as other military members,” said Captain Hillberg. “In addition, they have combat medical training requirements, are frequently deployed and sent on TDYs to keep their medical certifications up to date. All of this translates into tight access for getting appointments. An appointment that is booked but not kept means wasted money and has a provider who is idle instead of seeing sick patients.”

To avoid receiving a nast no-show letter, Captain Hillberg offers the following tips:

- Arrive to the appointment on time. Anyone arriving more than 15 minutes late is considered a no-show.
  - If the appointment can’t be made, call and cancel. The earlier the call, the better, even two hours is better than not showing up. Someone may be able to use the empty appointment slot.
- Sometimes people miss appointments due to circumstances beyond their control. In these cases they should speak with their first sergeant. How they handle the no-show letter is up to them. The 366th MDG provides the no-show letters strictly as management tools, the captain said.
- “Sometimes (but, very infrequently) there is an error, like a computer glitch,”

said Captain Hillberg. “If you truly believe you received an undeserved no-show letter, have your supervisor call one of the group practice managers at the 366th MDG at 828-7113 or 828-7505. We’ll be able to look up the information in our computers and determine what the issue was.”

“For the time being, we’re only sending no-show letters for active-duty members,” said the captain. For everyone else keep in mind each appointment made and not kept is an appointment someone else didn’t get – that someone might be you next time.”

For more information, call Captain Hillberg at 828-7113.



PHOTO BY CAPT. RANDY WITT  
STAFF SGT. CHRIS BIRDWELL, 407TH EXPEDITIONARY COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON, ADJUSTS A HIGH FREQUENCY ANTENNA ON TOP OF AN IRAQI POLICE STATION.

## Gunfighter helps repair Iraqi police station radio

**BY MASTER SGT. JON HANSON**  
407TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY  
GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For one deployed Gunfighter and three other members of the 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, their latest job was not a usual one.

Three ground radio maintainers and their flight commander responded to a request to fix a high frequency radio belonging to an Iraqi police station. The HF radio is important because of its long-range capabilities.

“The actual work we performed could have been done by one person,” said Capt. Randy Witt, 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, mission systems flight commander. “The problem was we didn’t know why the equipment wasn’t working. We didn’t receive a detailed report but did get pictures of the equipment.”

With pictures in hand, the maintainers contacted the radio manufacture and obtained the radio’s manual. Having the

manual allowed them to study the schematics and gather equipment they thought they might need to fix it.

“Not knowing what to expect, we took a duffle bag full of tools and spare equipment, two cable reels and test equipment,” said Captain Witt, who is deployed here from the 32nd Combat Communications Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. “When we arrived, we quickly discovered it was a simple power issue – a blown fuse.

“The guys took out the busted fuse only to find we didn’t bring a fuse with a compatible rating,” the captain said. “Fortunately, Staff Sgt. Kevin Newton discovered an extra fuse packed in the radio. We installed the new fuse and fired up the radio.”

“Carrying \$15,000 worth of equipment, expecting the worst and all we really needed was a ‘Leatherman’ and a flashlight,” said Sergeant Newton, who is deployed here from the 366th CS.

The satisfaction of fixing the radio wasn’t the only thing these

communications experts left with. They got an opportunity to experience a little bit of the Iraqi culture.

Once they were done, the Iraqis invited them to eat a meal of lamb and rice with them.

“The experience was something I’ll never forget. The ability to help such a cause does not come along every day,” said Staff Sgt. Chris Birdwell, who deployed from the 22nd CS at McConnell AFB, Kan. “I’m just thankful that I was able to be directly involved in a project of such magnitude.”

The visit made lasting impressions on the small group.

“I have honestly never met a group of people more respectful, friendly or eager to please,” said Senior Airman Justin Betts, who is deployed from the 90th CS at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo. “Over all of our cultural differences, I think these are qualities we as Americans sometimes overlook.”

## Targeting pods enhance battlefield awareness

**BY STAFF SGT. MELISSA KOSKOVICH**  
GUNFIGHTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
*Sergeant Koskovich is currently deployed to U.S. Central Command Air Forces Forward Public Affairs*

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** – An armed F-16 Fighting Falcon is “watching” the road below for the convoys rolling through a dangerous land.

The concept of using fighter aircraft equipped with targeting pods to monitor the battlespace is known as non-traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or NTISR.

Air Force NTISR operations began only four years ago and are the result of increased demand for complete battlespace awareness.

With the production and development of traditional ISR capabilities struggling to keep pace, leveraging fighters, bombers and air mobility aircraft in a similar role helps ensure information dominance.

“Before NTISR, we had fighter aircraft with surveillance capabilities burning holes in the sky, just waiting to be tasked by ground commanders,” said Maj. Marco Fiorito, deputy chief of collections management at the Combined Air Operations Center. “Instead of wasting these resources, we’ve begun to use them to fill some of the gaps in our traditional ISR operations.”

NTISM multiplies the commander’s capability, without the logistical and financial implications of creating more forces, but that is not its only benefit.

“NTISR increases the cross-talk between the Army and the Air Force in joint operations,” Major Fiorito said. “The majority of the time NTISR aircraft aircrews communicate directly with ground units. This fosters a greater understanding of what ground units are looking for and thinking.”

This understanding enables air and ground units to work in concert toward a variety of mutual operational objectives.

Most recently two F-15E Strike Eagles proved the value of this capability during a mortar attack on Balad Air Base, Iraq.

The aircraft were called to the scene by the base’s Joint Defense Operation Center. Using their electro-optical and infrared sensor capability, they quickly located three insurgents fleeing in a vehicle from the scene.

After following the suspects to a house, the aircraft relayed their location to ground forces. All three individuals were successfully detained.

“This engagement is an exceptional example of how air forces are contributing to the counterinsurgency campaign,” said Royal Air Force Air Commodore Ray Lock, Combined Air Operations Center director. “In this case, we realized the overwhelming advantage we have in the innovative use of fighter aircraft for NTISR.”

In addition to these capabilities, NTISR aircraft are a comfort factor for troops in hostile areas, soldiers here said.

“These jets are overhead for them,” Major Fiorito said. “These aircraft can scout ahead of convoys, looking for possible ambush sites or any other threat.”

More importantly, if there is a skirmish or firefight, the aircraft can quickly respond and help the troops on the ground, he said.

NTISR also has the potential to be a player in the fight against improvised explosive devices.

“We’re working around the clock to find a good way of employing NTISR and other assets to the counter-IED fight,” Major Fiorito said. “There are a lot of good people trying to come up with a viable solution.”

The intelligence community, along with ground and operations personnel is working towards this goal, while exploring the effectiveness of NTISR in combat. Admittedly though, it is only one facet of the bigger fight against anti-coalition forces.

## T-BOLT

- Continued from Page 1

The squadron flew its first combat missions since Southeast Asia in March 1995 when the squadron flew in Operation Provide Comfort II enforcing “no fly” sanctions over northern Iraq. In April 1996, the squadron flew its first Operation Southern Watch missions over Iraq from a base near Azraq, Jordan.

The 389th FS flew missions over Afghanistan highlighted by close air support missions supporting special operations personnel at Tarnac Farms.

The Thunderbolts were the first

F-16 unit to use CBU-103 and GBU-31 bombs during Operation Enduring Freedom combat missions.

Instead of using lasers or television cameras, inertially aided munitions use navigation systems to steer the bomb to the target. The GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munition, or JDAM, uses a special tail kit that reads Global Positioning Satellite coordinates to steer a 1,000 or 2,000-pound bombs to their targets through any kind of weather with an accuracy of 13 meters or less.

While not in combat, the 389th continually conducts pilot up training.

“We generally are TDY for training or deployments an average of

six times a year,” said Major Walker. “Our TDYs can vary anywhere from one week to four months at a time.”

While training, they may fly to Hill Air Force Base, Utah, perform aerial refueling missions or any number of other skills. In general, its pilots are happy to just get up in their jets and fly.

“Fly fighters is all I have ever wanted to do,” said Major Walker.

With pilots like Maj. Walker helping fly, the 389th FS T-Bolts have a long, proud tradition with the 366th Fighter Wing Gunfighters and Mountain Home AFB and continued a proud Gunfighter tradition of flying the F-16C Fighting Falcon.

## LEADERS

- Continued from Page 1

Force detachment at Holloman and heard about how 366th FW and associated range complex fit into their advanced fighter training program.

At Nellis, the group received briefings about the Red Flag exercises and Predator Unmanned program and toured the base’s Threat Training Facility and the Thunderbird’s hangar.

“My favorite part of the trip was meeting the outstanding military personnel,” said Mr.

Johnson. “Both officers and enlisted people alike whom we met were the epitome of the kind of people one can only hope for in any organization,” said Mr. Johnson.

“The respect, education, training, focus and devotion shown by those we met in the U.S. Air Force was something that stands out as being a hallmark of the experience,” he said. “The equipment, state of the art aircraft, air bases and logistics of the trip were impressive, but I was most impressed by all of you [in uniform].”

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- ALS graduation**
- Congratulations to the following Gunfighters on their recent graduation from Airman Leadership School:
- SENIOR AIRMAN TIMOTHY DULL**  
366TH MSS  
*John L. Levitow Recipient*  
**SENIOR AIRMAN JOHNATHAN HOUCHINS**  
366TH AMXS  
*Distinguished Graduate*  
**SENIOR AIRMAN TERRANCE KAUP**  
366TH CES  
*Distinguished Graduate Academic Award*  
**SENIOR AIRMAN CARLOS PEREZ**  
366TH CES  
*Esprit de Corps Recipient*  
**STAFF SGT. SAMANTHA WEBB**  
366TH SFS  
*Leadership Award Recipient*  
**SENIOR AIRMAN MARSHALL CARRUTHERS**  
366TH AMXS  
**STAFF SGT. JASON COLEMAN**  
366TH CMS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN JESSICA CONINE**  
366TH CPTS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN LARRY CRAWFORD**  
366TH CMS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN JANET DELACRUZ**  
389TH FS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN JASON DELCORE**  
366TH AMXS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN REBECCA HAMLIN**  
366TH CMS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN COREY HENDRICKSON**  
366TH EMS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN CHESTER JOHNSON**  
366TH AMXS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN RHYANNON LINNBARY**  
366TH EMS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN JOHNNY McAVOY**  
726TH ACS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN SWIFT MOON**  
366TH CES  
**SENIOR AIRMAN JOHN MOORE**  
726TH ACS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN TRAVIS MOORE**  
366TH OSS  
**STAFF SGT. ADAM NORRIS**  
366TH SFS  
**STAFF SGT. ROGER PARDO**  
366TH AMXS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN ZACHARY PAYNE**  
366TH AMXS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN DAVID RANCK**  
366TH AMXS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN TRAVIS SCATES**  
366TH AMXS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN HECTOR SIERRA JR.**  
366TH AMXS  
**STAFF SGT. JOHN SPENCER**  
366TH SFS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN JAY THORNTON**  
366TH AMXS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN DANIEL TURBA**  
366TH CES  
**SENIOR AIRMAN ANTHONY VAIRA**  
366TH EMS  
**SENIOR AIRMAN KIMBERLY WILLIAMS**  
366TH FW  
**STAFF SGT. KARI YALE**  
366TH SVS

- FTAC awards**
- Congratulations to Airman Jamie L. Rudy, 366th Logistics Readiness Squadron, on receiving the First Term Airmen Center’s “Sharp Troop” award as the top performer of Class 06-I.
- Congratulations to Airman Jessica L. Mead, 366th Services Squadron, on receiving the “Gunfighter Pride” award for Class 06-I.

## NEWSLINE

**Tax office open**

The Gunfighter tax officewill be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and April 8 for Gunfighters still needing to file their taxes.

For more information, call 828-4997.

**Self defense classes**

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office is sponsoring Risk Reduction Self-Defense classes for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Classes are available from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday at the base fitness center. These classes are free and open to all military people and their family members over the age of 16.

To sign up, call 828-6622. The classes are limited to 20 students.

SERVICES

Auto skills center

**Contract mechanic and paint and body tech** — Work is done by appointment only.  
Look for “Clip and Save with Services” coupon to receive 10 percent off of air conditioning service and recharging through April 30.  
To make an appointment, call 828-2295.

Bowling center

**Monte Carlo** — Today at 10:30 p.m. Bowl for \$10.  
**Family special** — Bowl for \$1 a game every Sunday.  
For more information, call 828-6329.

Community center

**Spring Spa Day** — Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come and enjoy a day of total bliss. Fashion show, Biggest Loser sign up, hot tubs, facials, manicures and more to pamper yourself will be available. First 100 ladies will receive a flower.  
**Hip-Hop all-nighter** — April 14 in the Afterburners Lounge at 9 p.m. Prizes include DVDs and CDs. Must be 18 to join the fun and 21 to enjoy the drink specials.

**Power yoga** — Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Cost is \$40 for eight sessions. Must bring own mat, blocks and straps.  
**Elementary Russian** — Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 for eight sessions.  
**Magic Class** — Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. All ages invited. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Four sessions a month. \$20 per person.  
**Instructors needed** — The community center needs experienced instructors for crafts, dance, music, cooking, interior decorating, self defense, sewing, quilting, cake decorating and stamping.  
**Photography classes** — Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$30 for eight sessions.  
**Spanish classes** — Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 for eight sessions.  
**Dog obedience class** — Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$35 for four sessions.  
For more information, call 828-2246.

Youth programs

**Gymnastics instructor** — Youth programs needs an experienced gymnastics instructor.  
**Kidz Klub** — April 7 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Children ages 6 to 8 are invited to the youth center for an evening of fun and crafts. The cost is \$5 per child (current members will get \$1 off).  
**Easter Egg-travaganza** — April 8 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Families and children of all ages are invited to participate. Parents must stay with their children throughout the event. Along with the

egg hunt, there will be inflatables, face painting, games and a visit from the Easter Bunny.  
**Family skate night** — April 8 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Come enjoy indoor skating. The cost for children is \$5 (current members get \$1 off). Parents skate free.  
For more information, call 828-2501.

Outdoor adventure program

Come to the outdoor adventure program building (Building 2800 across from the youth center) to get a calendar to help plan outdoor adventures.  
For more information, call 828-6333.

Outdoor recreation supply

**Video rentals** — Video rentals are available for sportsmens needs. Weekend rentals are \$1, day rates are 75 cents and additional days are 50 cents.  
**Sportsman camp trailer special** — Camp trailers can be reserved on the first working day of the month and may be reserved for the following month. Prices are \$60 per weekend, \$45 overnight and \$15 each additional day.  
For more information, call 828-2237.

Library

**April book adventure** — Legal drama. Come see what exciting historical fiction adventures you can get lost in.  
**Wireless Internet** — Bring in a laptop computer and access free wireless Internet from inside the library or from the Pony Espresso Café.  
**Multimedia center** — Features color copier, scanner and photo printing.  
**Story time** — Wednesdays at 1 p.m. for supervised children ages 3 to 5.  
**Pony Espresso Café** — Open from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday . They serve a variety of coffee drinks, smoothies and pastries.  
**Video club** — Members pay \$12 per year and can borrow up to three videos at a time for a one-week rental.  
For more information, call 828-2326.

Pizza Etc.

**April special** — One 10-inch one topping pizza and one 24-ounce soda for \$7.75.  
**Soup of the day** —  
*Monday* — Chicken gumbo  
*Tuesday* — Chicken and dumplings  
*Wednesday* — Creamy potato with bacon  
*Thursday* — Cream of broccoli  
*Friday* — Clam chowder

Gunfighters Club

**Cook your own steak or chicken** — Every Thursday in April from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$3.95 for club members.  
**ACC Gunfighters membership night** — April 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy a free buffet and a chance to win \$500 in door prizes. No reservations needed for this event.

VIPER VISITS



VICKI JOHNSON, GUNFIGHTER TAX CENTER SUPERVISOR, HELPS VIPER FILL OUT A TAX FORM FOR HIS 2005 INCOME. THE TAX OFFICE WILL EXTEND THEIR HOURS THE NEXT TWO SATURDAYS TO HELP GUNFIGHTERS FILE THEIR TAXES. TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, CALL 828-4997. IF YOU WOULD LIKE VIPER TO VISIT YOUR SHOP, CALL THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE AT 828-6800 OR SEND AN E-MAIL TO PA.NEWS@MOUNTAINHOME.AF.MIL

**Gunfighters night buffet** — April 12 and 26 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dinner is a members only benefit. The cost is \$3.66 for adults and \$1.80 for children under 12.

Swimming Pool

**Hydrobics** — Available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$20 per month or \$2 per session. All ages are invited to participate.

Silver Sage Golf Course

**April Fools Merchandise Sale** — Discounts will be between 10 and 50 percent off. Come pop a balloon and see how much you can save.  
**April “Ringer” Tournament** — Silver Sage Golf Course is conducting a monthlong “Ringer” tournament. Participants must play one 18-hole round per week with a fellow competitor. Participants make their hole-by-hole gross scores each week on the provided score sheet. The players’ total score is a combination of their best scores on each hole throughout the four rounds of the competition.  
**Monday “Lesson Night”** — Free golf lessons every Monday night in April. Classes cover fundamentals, driving, irons, short game and trouble shots as well as rules and etiquette.

Marketing

**Check us out on the web**— www.MHAFBFun.com. Get club coupons and stay up to date on exciting events.

CHAPEL

Catholic

**Sunday mass** — 8 a.m.  
**CCD Sunday** — 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. for 3 year olds to adults; located in the Religious Education Building.  
**Daily mass** — Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

Protestant

**Sunday school** — 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for 6 month olds to adults; located in the Religious Education Building.  
**Traditional service** — Sunday at 11 a.m. Also provided at this time are a children’s church for 4 year olds to second grade and Wee Joy for 6 months to 5 years.  
**Jubilee Full Gospel Baptist Service** — Sunday at 1:30 p.m.  
**Protestant extras** — Protestant Women of the Chapel meets Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Religious Education Building.

WELLNESS

Anger management

Unmanaged anger destroys relationships, families and individual health. Learn to understand and control responses to anger. Must attend four consecutive weeks to receive a certificate. The class runs from 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays at family advocacy. To register, call 828-7520.

English as a Second Language

Learn English through the four language skills of reading, speaking, listening and writing in a friendly, informal setting. Class runs from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the family support center. To register, call 828-2458.

Credit When Credit Is Due

This six-week course helps individuals gain a basic understanding of money issues and their responsibilities revolving around the world of credit. Individuals who successfully complete the course can become better risks in the eyes of lenders and should be better prepared to handle their personal finances in the future. The class is every Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m. starting Tuesday at the family support center. To register, call 828-2458.

Parenting with 1-2-3 Magic

Learn how to handle difficult behavior, encourage good behavior and manage the inevitable sidetrack of testing and manipulation of children age 2 to 12 years old with some simple, precise and effective methods. The class is Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the family support center. To register, call 828-2458.

EDUCATION NEWS

Tuition Assistance Program

The Tuition Assitance Program offers 100 percent paid schooling, not to exceed \$4,500 per fiscal year. The cap is \$250 per semester hour or \$166.66 per quarter hour. The Montgomery GI Bill may be used in conjunction with TA while on active duty for courses that exceed the TA cap. You decide the school, program and method of instruction.

Boise State University

Registration continues for Spring block II. The Spring II semester begins Monday. For more information, call the local BSU office at 828-6746, stop by or visit www.boisestate.edu. The local office is located in the education center, Room 213.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers courses at Mountain Home AFB and at Gowen Field. For more information, stop by the office or call 828-4190 or 832 -2222.

HOUSING NEWS

Barbecue grills

Grills should be lit and supervised by adults only. Do not light grills within 6 feet of houses or other combustible materials. Portable barbecues must be completely extinguished before being put away. Highly flammable liquids (gasoline, etc.) will not be used to start barbecues (only approved charcoal lighter fluids). Barbecuing in garages, under patios or under carports is prohibited. Make sure barbecue briquettes are cool before placing in your trash can.

OUTSIDE THE GATES

Mogul madness snowmobile climb

The RMSHA Snowmobile Hill Climb offers an opportunity to watch 225 horsepower snowmobiles race straight up the monster moguls of Al’s Drop and Lift Line to claim their share of over \$50,000 in cash and prizes. The event is April 8 to 10 at Pebble Creek Ski Area, located in Inkom, Idaho.

THE BIG SCREEN

**Today, Saturday and Sunday** — *Curious George* — *G* — starring Will Ferrell and Drew Barrymore. The adventures of Curious George, the inquisitive little guy with an insatiable taste for adventure.

George’s spunky and fun-loving nature endears him to new friends, but also lands him in a seriesof (mis-) adventures. *1 hour, 26 minutes. Show times: today, special 1 p.m. matinee – tickets \$1.25; Saturday, 7 p.m.; and Sunday, special 1 p.m. matinee.*

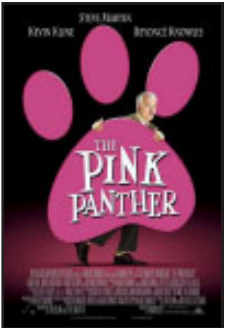
**Today** — *Something New* — *PG-13* — *7 p.m.* — starring Sanaa Lathun and Simon Baker. While 42.4 percent of African- Americans have never been married, Kenya, a professional African-American woman, is determined to do something about it. She is



shocked to discover, however, that she’s falling in love with a white landscaper. *1 hour, 39 minutes.*

**Sunday and Monday** — *The Pink Panther*

*Panther* — *PG* — *7 p.m.* — starring Steve Martin and Beyonce’ Knowles. A world-famous soccer coach has been murdered and his priceless, legendary ring has been stolen—a ring set with the stunning diamond known as the “Pink Panther.” The French government needs a master detective to solve the crime and recover the gem –but he’s not available, so they recruit none other than Inspector Jacques Clouseau. *1 hour, 32 minutes.*



**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday** – Theater closed.

# Air Force doctor finishes Iditarod with flourish

By **TECH. SGT. KEITH BROWN**  
3RD COMMUNICATIONS  
SQUADRON

NOME, Alaska – After finishing last year’s Iditarod Sled Dog Race, Maj. (Dr.) Thomas Knolmayer said it would be his one and only running of the 1,150-mile race across Alaska’s wilderness. But those who know the 38-year-old surgeon stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, knew better.

After getting the blessing from his wife, Tina, the major threw his name in the hat to compete in the 2006 race.

“I still had all the dogs, and they can’t just sit around doing nothing,” he said, referring to his kennel of 21 Alaskan Huskies.

After a good training season of running the sled dogs for three to four hours, four to five nights a week, Doctor Knolmayer felt good about the team this year.

“The dogs are running strong, and I have a lot more experience going into this year’s race,” Doctor Knolmayer said. He was also fortunate to have a co-worker, Lt. Col. Michelle Prevost, running half his team with him after work and cutting his training time in half.

Having one of his strongest dogs healthy this year also helped. Last year, Tomahawk, a 7-year-old lead dog, was injured two weeks before the Iditarod and had to sit out. This year, he was raring to go.

With an upcoming assignment and having to leave Alaska, Doctor Knolmayer said this would



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. KEITH BROWN

MAJ. (DR.) THOMAS KNOLMAYER AND HIS SLED DOG TEAM COVER THE LAST 16 MILES OF THE 2006 IDITAROD SLED DOG RACE IN NOME, ALASKA, FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2006. DOCTOR KNOLMAYER FINISHED THE 1,150-MILE RACE ACROSS ALASKA IN 11 DAYS, 22 HOURS AND 13 MINUTES, BETTERING HIS TIME FROM LAST YEAR BY 47 HOURS.

be his last Iditarod. That made this year’s race just that much more special.

That wasn’t the only thing that made it special. This year, he ran with a bigger purpose – a 10-year-old girl with cancer was cheering him on.

Katie Powell, the daughter of Senior Master Sgt. Chris Powell, who is a KC-10 Extender boom operator at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., has Ewing’s Sarcoma, a bone cancer. Through the generosity of several units at Travis, she fulfilled her dream of meeting an Iditarod musher and riding on the sled. She was also the major’s personal guest at the start of this year’s Iditarod after riding with

him during his last training run.

“The sled ride was great,” Katie said. “It lasted a long time, but seemed like it was only a few minutes.”

Since she had to head home the Monday after the start, she planned on using the Internet to track the major’s progress.

“I’ll keep track of him on the computer,” she said.

The race is a mental and physical challenge. The mushers face sleep deprivation and have to spend a large amount of time caring for the dogs.

“When I stop at a checkpoint for several hours, I may get 45 minutes of sleep after spending several hours taking care of the dogs” Doctor Knolmayer said. “If we stop

twice a day, that ends up being two 45-minute naps.”

Besides the lack of sleep, extreme weather also takes its toll when the teams face temperatures as warm as 40 degrees and as cold as 45 below zero. The warmer temperatures are hard on the dogs and can reduce a dog’s ability to pull long distances. Often, they sit during daylight hours, waiting for the cooler temperatures of the dark Alaska night.

Alaskan Huskies have the almost unbelievable ability to withstand temperatures of 45 degrees below zero for days on end with little affect. Doctor Knolmayer was also thrilled when the temperatures were well below zero.

“It’s much easier on the team.

They feel great and just want to keep going,” he said.

Trail hazards also make the race a challenge. Stumps in the trail and sharp turns can send a musher into the trees. Being on ice in high winds is also a risk.

“At one point, the wind was sending the sled and the dogs sideways across the ice. All I could do was crawl on my hands and knees trying to get control of the sled and team,” the doctor said.

Even with all the challenges of the Iditarod trail, Doctor Knolmayer set his goals high and found a way to succeed. After finishing the race last year with a respectable time of 13 days and 22 hours, he knew he could lead his team to a better finish this year.

So, as usual, Doctor Knolmayer set what seemed to be a goal impossible to meet. Finish the race in less than 12 days. Waiting in Nome, his wife and the rest of his supporters tracked his progress online and estimated a Friday finish around 4 p.m. – a finish that would be two hours short of his goal.

Doctor Knolmayer crossed the finish line at 1:10 pm., meeting his goal of a finish under 12 days by just one hour. It was a finish that was 47 hours better than last year.

After all the pomp and circumstance of the race, greeting his wife and 15-month-old son, Zane, and getting the dogs bedded down, the major finished one last task. He posed under the arches at the finish line with a poster that said, “We did it for you, Katie Powell!”

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Thursday game day

Every Thursday at Silver Sage Golf Course, come and join in on an informational competition. Formats vary from week-to-week, and fees go into a prize fund. Competitors are required to make their own pairings and tee times. IGA Handicap is required. Winners are posted on Fridays in the Clubhouse.

### Mighty mite T-ball registration

Registration starts Tuesday. The cost is \$21 per person. Register by April 14 and receive a \$5 discount. This is for children ages 4 to 5. Children must be eligible for kindergarten in September. Register at the youth center.

### T-ball registration

Registration starts Tuesday. The cost is \$21 per person. Register by April 14 and receive a \$5 discount. This is for children ages 6 to 7. League practice begins in May and games follow in June.

### Pick-a-partner golf tournament

April 8 and 9 starting at 9 a.m. The tournament starts the same weekend as the Masters’ Golf Tournament in Augusta, Ga. It consists of 36 holes of stroke play on the golf course. Player selection ends Wednesday.

Ads

# Manas AB, local Kyrgyz communities forge friendship



AIRMEN STRUGGLE AGAINST A TEAM OF MANAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERSONNEL DURING A TUG-OF-WAR COMPETITION MARCH 23. THE AIRPORT’S SECRETARY OF SECURITY INVITED THE AIRMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GAMES AS A MARK OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

*Competition includes races, tournaments, strength competitions*

STORY AND PHOTO  
By STAFF SGT. LARA GALE  
376TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY  
WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan—With warm and milder weather, spring brought opportunities for the base and local community to strengthen friendly relations.

Emergency responders on

base pulled out all the stops to host officials and staff from the Kyrgyz Ministry of Emergency for an annual tour and barbecue March 18. The two groups met previously when base emergency responders visited the ministry, said Senior Master Sgt. Gerald Johnson, fire chief.

“It’s important we take the opportunity to make these kinds of connections,” Sergeant Johnson said. “We’re very fortunate to be in a country where it’s possible.”

Each emergency response element of the 376th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron and the 376th Expeditionary Medical Group set up static displays of equipment, including tools and protective clothing. After presentations of each element’s capabilities, the

group sat down together for a barbecue prepared by the fire department.

Col. Bill Baird, 376th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander, and other wing leadership attended a festival in nearby Jani-Jer March 21 as guests of village Mayor Batyrlan Kulov, to celebrate the Muslim New Year, Nooruz.

The invitation came last month after Colonel Baird arranged visits with mayors of the villages surrounding the base. He received a warm reception in every village, he said. Some villages had not seen an official from the base for several years, though security forces personnel on saber patrols kept communication flowing between villagers and the base.

Local mayors were invited by Col. Randy Kee, wing commander, and other wing leadership for a comprehensive tour of the base March 23. Each mayor was officially welcomed as an “honorary commander” on base.

That same morning, on the soccer field outside the Manas International Airport entrance gate, Airmen joined Kyrgyzstan military servicemembers and airport employees for a sports day celebrating the new Kyrgyz holiday, Revolution Day. Mamyrov Nadybek, secretary of security issues for MIA, who works closely with Maj. Mark Anuramo, commander of the 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, issued the invitation.

“We are glad to support our American friends,” he said to par-

ticipants. “We want to strengthen our partnership and hope to continue this tradition for many years.”

Having such friendly relations with the local population puts Manas in an extremely unique position for this area of responsibility, Major Anuramo said.

“It’s an extremely good thing when we have a chance to forge real relationships with people, and share who we are as Americans,” he said.

Friendly interaction with the people and leaders of Kyrgyzstan is an important aspect of the 376th AEW mission, Colonel Kee said. The ultimate objective of military operations here is to allow peaceful relations between all nations, and our relationship with the host nation here is part of that, the colonel added.

Ads

# Three AF trailblazers among Hall of Fame inductees

By ANNETTE CRAWFORD  
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Three Air Force trailblazers were among five women inducted into the Women in Aviation, International, Pioneer Hall

of Fame here March 25. An audience of more than 2,000 witnessed the induction of retired officers—Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm, Maj. Gen. Betty Mullis and Lt. Col. Betty Jane Williams.

The ceremony and banquet marked the conclusion of the 17th Annual International Women in Aviation Conference. The Pioneer Hall of Fame, established in 1992, honors women who made significant contributions to aviation. The women, considered record-setters and innovators, are also known as mentors, opening the doors of opportunity to other women. Such is the case with this year's award winners.



PHOTOS BY ANNETTE CRAWFORD  
RETIREDAIR FORCE RESERVE MAJ. GEN. BETTY MULLIS IS INDUCTED INTO THE PIONEER HALL OF FAME FOR WOMEN IN AVIATION, INTERNATIONAL, IN NASHVILLE, TENN., MARCH 25.

General Holm enlisted in the Army during World War II and served as a truck driver in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She left active duty after the war but was recalled during the Berlin Airlift in 1948. She was later commissioned in the newly created U.S. Air Force.

During her 33-year career, she achieved many firsts — first woman to attend the Air Command and Staff College, first woman in the Air Force to achieve brigadier general (1971) and first woman in any military branch to wear two stars (1973). She is probably best known as “the top WAF” — director of Women in the Air Force.

General Holm wrote several books on issues affecting women in the armed forces.

“I have always felt the military's goals were best met by finding the best person — male or female — with the right talents and aptitudes,” she wrote.

General Mullis served 33 years in all components of the Air Force — active duty, Guard and Reserve. The command pilot has logged more than 4,900 flying hours in military aircraft, and participated in such operations as Desert Storm, Provide Hope and Joint Endeavor.

She has also achieved a series of firsts — first woman pilot in the Air Force to achieve brigadier general (2000) and again first for major general (2002). She was the first woman in the Air Force Reserve to command a flying squadron and the second within the entire Air Force. She then became the first woman in the Air Force to command a flying wing.

The general is known as a mentor eager to help other women achieve success. She was quick to point out receiving the award was not an accomplishment she was solely responsible for.

“I don't look back at (my career) as things I've done. I look back on it as things we've done,” she said. “And in ‘we’ I mean the people that I have worked with for the 33 and a half years that I spent wearing the uniform on active duty, in the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve. I don't think I've done anything. I happen to be the recipient of some accolades that other people deserve.”

Colonel Williams remained involved with nearly every aspect of aviation for more than 60 years. She earned her pilot's certificate six months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. After working as an airline stewardess with Canadian Colonial Airlines, she was selected to train as a Link Trainer instructor and taught navigation to military pilots.

She entered the Women Airforce Service Pilots, known as WASP, in 1944, and was then



RETIREDAIR FORCE LT. COL. BETTY JANE WILLIAMS SPEAKS DURING A WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS PANEL AT THE 17TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN AVIATION CONFERENCE.

assigned as an engineering test pilot at Randolph Field in San Antonio. She flight-tested advanced trainers and the P-40 fighter. The WASP were deactivated in December 1944.

Colonel Williams served the military for 28 years, retiring in 1979. She was one of the initial organizers of the post-war WASP national organization, serving in several leadership roles.

“To be recognized by your

peers is the important thing,” the colonel said. “It's been a hell of a ride.”

The other two inductees were Fran Bera, seven-time winner of the All Woman Transcontinental Air Race, and Galina Gavrilovna Korchuganova of Russia, who was the first absolute world aerobatic champion among women, winning gold and silver medals at the World Cup Championship in 1966.

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